

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation. It is a continuation of their clearly partisan policies regarding content and the use of public airwaves, earlier shown by their refusal to air Nightline's Iraq program back in April of this year. This is unacceptable in our democracy.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. I urge the FCC to address Sinclair's actions as well as the larger issue of how media is failing to serve the public interest. Thank you.